

The Ambassador Club and the Clinton River Bike Path Project



In an effort to help beautify, enhance and protect the environment, the Ambassador Club plans to participate in the Clinton River Spillway Bike Path Project. The event will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Registration for the all day event starts at 8:00 a.m., followed by an educational speaker at 8:30 a.m. The actual cleanup and planting starts at 9:30 a.m. and goes until 3:30 p.m.

If you would like to join the Ambassador Club, please meet on the Northwest corner of Harper and Wellington Crescent in Clinton Township. Plan to bring your gardening tools such as rakes, shovels and pruners. We are hoping for a sunny day, so don't forget your sunscreen. For additional information, please call Karen Hakim at (586) 469-5931.

Welcome Gina Riebel

We are excited to announce Gina Riebel will be joining the 4-H staff team this summer. This summer position was made possible through South East Regional funds. Gina has been in 4-H since she was 9 years old.

During her 4-H career, she was involved in many project areas including livestock judging, swine, sheep, veterinary science, community service, cooking, and crafts. After she aged out of 4-H, she became a screened volunteer, stays connected, serves as Lamb Superintendent, assists with the Livestock Sale, and serves as Veterinary Science Project Leader for School Section 4-H Club.

She majored in Animal Science for two years while attending Michigan State University and is now pursuing a Nursing Degree locally. We look forward to Gina sharing her many talents and livestock knowledge in upcoming Macomb County 4-H programming.

Important Livestock Tagging Date Change



Those youth with market sheep, goats or swine who plan on exhibiting their animals at the fair must have their animals tagged. The tagging date has changed and will occur at the Armada Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 31st from noon to 2 p.m.

Teens Needed for Exhibit Barn Set-up

Becky Harris is looking for teens to help set up the 4-H exhibit barn on judging day. Those interested should email vharris1198@wowway.com or call 586-465-1198.

4-H King and Queen

Now is the time to nominate someone from your club for 4-H King and Queen. Contest rules and application instructions can be found at the

MSUE website. Go to <http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/Clubs.htm> and

scroll down to "King and Queen" or contact the MSUE office at 586-469-6431. Applications are due to the MSUE office by 5:00 pm June 12. Leaders must make sure to enter the nominations on a fair entry form by fair deadline.

Armada Fair 4-H Theme:
"4-H Forever"

**Armada Fair
August 18-23, 2009**

Exploration Days Orientation

Exploration Days Orientation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 3, 2009 at the VerKuilen Building, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township. This meeting is mandatory for anyone attending 4-H Exploration Days. Balances due must be paid on or before this date. Anyone unable to attend should contact Tina Fleming at 586-469-6431 or Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov.

State 4-H Award Program

The Michigan State 4-H Awards Program includes county, regional and state-level competition. Awards program participants submit completed individual or group awards application forms to their county MSU Extension staff by March 1. The applications are evaluated on the county level and submitted for regional competition.

Regional winners are selected by early April. Regional winners can then compete for state-level honors in one project area. Congratulations to Macomb County's regional winners: Crystal Knust-Goats, Kara Lotan-Goats, Shelby Motoligin-Poultry and Heather Kitchen, Hannah Mills and Kaitlin Karl for Northern Macomb's Group Community Service Award. We will be cheering you on at the State Awards Assembly at Exploration Days.

Club & Committee News

Northern Macomb 4-H Club Members Keep Busy

Northern Macomb 4-H Club had a busy March. Besides preparing dog and cat treats for a local animal shelter, they made 100 activity bags for Children's Hospital patients and 50 greeting cards for patients at the Veterans' Hospital in Detroit. In part of going green, cartoons were clipped from the comics section of the Macomb Daily and placed in the greeting cards. Both organizations were very happy with the donations and especially pleased that our club will continue donating over the next couple of months.

Submitted by Crystal Pollock

Macomb County Animal Shelter Community Service



Above: Northern Macomb 4-H Club assembled pet treat bags in February. The group presented the bags to the Macomb County Animal Shelter in March (below).

On Tuesday, February 17, members of the Northern Macomb 4-H Club met at the home of the club's newest Cloversprout (Laura Pollock) and Project Leader (Crystal Pollock) to assemble treat bags to donate to the Macomb County Animal Shelter. The treat bags are for families adopting a dog or cat from the shelter.

As a community service project, members decorated bags in both dog and cat motif and filled them with treats that were graciously donated by The Armada Grain Company and Pet Supply Plus. Labels were affixed with the club's name and the contact information for the 4-H offices.

Club members in attendance were Heather and Rebecca Kitchen; Iain, Maddie and Hannah Mills; Laura and Megan Pollock; Adrienne and Elisha Brockert; and Coren Dettloff. Visitors helping with the project were Owen and Olivia O'Donnell. Leaders present were Lynda Brockert, Holly Kitchen, Anne Mills and Crystal Pollock.

Club members presented the treat bags to the Macomb County Animal Shelter on Wednesday, March 11. They were welcomed by staff and given a tour of the facility, where they learned more about what goes on there.

Submitted by Crystal Pollock

School Section Reports Community Service

On Monday, February 9th, School Section 4-H group attended the Village Care Community Center in Armada. At the nursing home, 4-Hers read to the residents as well as made crafts with them. One of the crafts we made was a ball in a cup. Our groups used tin foil, string, tape, and a cup to create the item. Thank for those members who participated on this date. All of the residents were very thankful that you came.

School Section made fleece scarves on Sunday, February 15th for the homeless people at the MCREST Foundation. Mrs. Latshaw helped our group create these scarves by using the fleece she donated. Our mission was a success, and we thank all of the people who participated in this activity.

On Thursday, February 19th, our 4-H group went to the MCREST Foundation at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Haven. Our members made a tasty dinner for all of the residents there. We made salad, spaghetti, some other treats, and for dessert, they made ice cream sundaes. After the meal, the residents took a liking to the scarves we had made them and they are very thankful for the gift that 4-H had presented them. Thank you for all the members that were there to attend the MCREST and make the peoples lives there a little bit easier.

On Saturday, March 21st, our 4-H group went to the Methodist Church of Armada to clean the basement for their 150th anniversary. The Methodist Church group has let our 4-H group have our meetings and classes in the basement/meeting rooms. As a "Thank You" we cleaned the basement by washing tables, cleaning chairs, vacuuming carpets and washing the floors.

Submitted by Blake Muglia and Lauren Karash, School Section 4-H Club Reporters

Club & Committee News (continued)

Rocketry Project Information

NOTE: YOU MUST RSVP 24 HOURS in ADVANCE FOR EACH DATE THAT YOU INTEND TO ATTEND!!!

WHERE TO GET SUPPLIES: At most hobby stores: Prieh's in Richmond north of 32 Mile, Great Lakes Hobby in Sterling Heights. Check your yellow pages for additional hobby stores. Toys 'R Us has a more limited selection of rockets & supplies. Meijer has a very limited selection. Also look online.

WEBSITES: WWW.ESTESROCKETS.COM or <http://www.hobbylinc.com> or <http://www.greatlakeshobby.com> or <http://www.skyhighhobbies.com/history.htm>. Be sure to stay within the A to D engine range. (You need approval by the airports to fly E engines or above.) <http://www.rocketreviews.com/tools.shtml> has online parachute and stability calculators. There are many more sites to visit that contain models, rocketry information, etc. Check out some of the other cool sites such as SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence), pictures of Eagle Nebula (the birth of a star).

SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS PROJECT: rocket, engines, extra igniters (engines come with some, but usually need more), wadding, white glue and/or plastic cement (read instructions on rocket). Paint is needed. **Note: Hot glue is not acceptable for this project.** Optional: Spray clear coat (matte or satin or glossy) to finish rocket and Launch Pad. **NOTE:** There is no charge for this class, but please keep packet of information given during 1st year for all subsequent years and any new material supplied.

BEGINNERS (1st year 4-H Rocketry): We will begin building rockets on **WEDNESDAY, May 27th at 6:00 pm** in the Ray Township Hall. It is located on Wolcott just north of 29 Mile Road. **Bring Skill Level 1 rocket kit and white glue.** Parents should plan on staying to supervise those 4-Hers under age 12. **NOTE: DO NOT BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TO THIS CLASS: plastic cement, engines. THIS IS A MANDATORY MEETING FOR 1st year ROCKETRY students (even if you took rocketry through another organization). RSVP 24 hours in advance: Nick Knust 586-784-8537 or Nancy Davis 586-784-9410.**

PLEASE NOTE: engines are made of gun powder and must be handled with care! NEVER LAUNCH WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION! REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST!!!

YOU MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE FLIGHT DAY!!! New: we will not automatically be at the park on flight days. We will only be there if you called and notified one of us at least 24 hours in advance.

TO ALL ROCKET MEMBERS: All flights will be held at the Ray Township Park on Wolcott Road just north of 29 Mile Road.

1st Flight	Wednesday, July 22nd	6:00pm
2nd Flight	Wednesday, July 29th	6:00pm
3 rd Flight	Wednesday, Aug 5 th	6:00 pm

You may bring rockets from prior years to fly, but they will not eligible to show at the fair.

THINGS TO BRING TO FLIGHTS: Launch pad (if you have one), rocket, wadding, engines, extra igniters, card insert from your rocket with vital statistics on it, (length, width, diameter, weight, etc.). We DO time the flights and need the details regarding your rocket for our records.

FAIR REQUIREMENTS: Rocket must have been built during the past year. It must have been flown & flight log kept & exhibited

MY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

1) The rocket must be displayed on a stand of some kind. This stand can be a bought launch pad, a homemade launch pad, or a piece of wood that has been suitably painted and a rod of some type installed to support the rocket (example: fasten a nail or metal rod to a piece of wood that is slightly larger than your rocket, and paint to match or contrast your rocket).

2) a poster displaying whatever you would like it to display. This can be pictures of you and your rocket and flight logs, or you can do detailed drawings and descriptions of any part of model rocketry (i.e. how engines are made, how engines work, importance of safety first, etc.). Because of space limitations at the fair, please limit poster to 1/2 of poster board. Foam core board looks especially nice but is not required.

3) For each year that you are in rocketry class, I expect that you will increase the rocket skill level and therefore its complexity (i.e. first year -skill level 1 (Beta) rocket; second year -skill level 2 (Explorer) rocket, etc.) Each rocket should be more of a challenge than the last. If, however, you have some difficulty in completing a skill level 2, 3 (Challenge) or 4 rocket or if you required a lot of outside help, please speak to me, as I do NOT want you to increase your skill level if you are not ready to.

Please note: RTF (ready to fly) and E2X (almost ready to fly) rockets are NOT acceptable for this project!

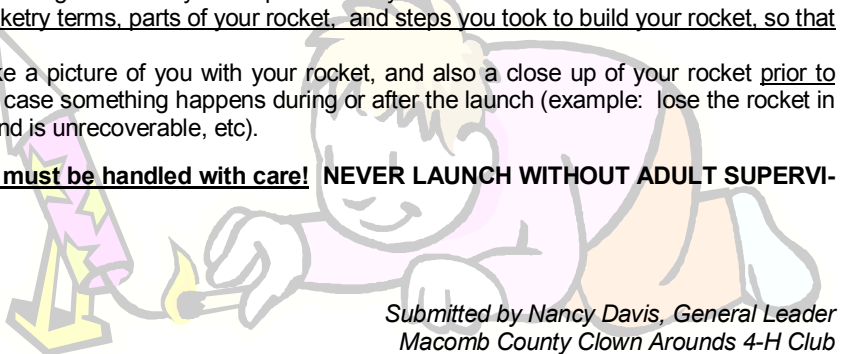
4) I do expect that neatness and evidence of increased knowledge in rocketry will improve each year.

5) Several days before the fair, be sure to review list of rocketry terms, parts of your rocket, and steps you took to build your rocket, so that you can answer the judges' questions.

NOTE: It would be a good idea if you have someone take a picture of you with your rocket, and also a close up of your rocket prior to launch, so that you will have proof of your workmanship (in case something happens during or after the launch (example: lose the rocket in tree, rocket crashes, parachute takes rocket beyond park and is unrecoverable, etc).

PLEASE NOTE: engines are made of gun powder and must be handled with care! NEVER LAUNCH WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION! REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST!!!

This project is open to all 4-Hers within Macomb County.



Submitted by Nancy Davis, General Leader
Macomb County Clown Arouns 4-H Club

Club & Committee News (continued)

MSU Pre-College Scholarship Recipients

It is truly a pleasure to announce the MSUE 4-H youth recipients of the 8th grade MSU Pre-College Program Scholarship for 2008. A total of 61 scholarships were awarded and 57 went to MSUE 4-H youth. Congratulations to Melissa Mikolowski of Huron Pointe Coyote Club and Claire Vestrand of Ray Community. Both will receive a \$2,000 scholarship applied to their first year at MSU as a degree-seeking student. To learn more about this scholarship and others go online to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/scholar.html>. Application forms and deadlines for 2009 will be updated and posted by mid-September.

New Outdoor Adventure Challenge 4-H Club is off and Running

There is a new club at Dresden Elementary in the Utica Schools and it has been a huge success. The Dresden 4-H Outdoor Adventure Challenge Club had its first meeting on March 3rd to let parents and kids know what the club was all about. That week kids started enrolling and the next Tuesday, March 10 the club met for the first time. Mr. & Mrs.

Got Cats? Get Catnip!

2008 was a bumper year for catnip. The Fantastic Felines are putting their remaining stash on sale. Catnip toys are now \$2 each. Snack-baggies of catnip are \$1. Call Anne at the 4-H Office if you want to place an order.

State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show Results

The 2009 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show took place on January 31st at MSU with over 260 youth participating across the state with 904 rabbit and 100 cavy entries. Sara Mathews of Lenox Leprechauns won Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex for her French Lops and Madaleine Mills of Northern Macomb won Best Opposite Sex for her Jersey Wooley. Way to go Sarah and Madaleine!

Rabbit Resources

To help select, care, breed and show your rabbits and cavies, there are many **FREE RESOURCES available** on the web at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/aniscipr.html#Rabbits>:

Rabbit and Cavy Resources

- 4-H 1268 Rabbit Fitting & Showing Member's Guide
- 4-H 1269 Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship Leader's Supplement
- 4-H 1345 Cavy Fitting & Showmanship Member's Guide
- 4-H 1346 Cavy Fitting & Showmanship Leader's Supplement
- 4-H 1436 Rabbit Tracks: Starting a 4-H Rabbit Project
- 4-H 1437 Rabbit Tracks: Handling
- 4-H 1438 Rabbit Tracks: Showroom Tips
- 4-H 1439 Rabbit Tracks: Winter Rabbit Care
- 4-H 1440 Rabbit Tracks: Summer Rabbit Care
- 4-H 1457 4-H Animal Project Record for Beginning Members
- 4-H 1462 Rabbit Tracks: Choosing a Breed
- 4-H 1463 Rabbit Tracks: Selecting Stock
- 4-H 1464 Rabbit Tracks: Breeding Techniques and Management
- 4-H 1465 Rabbit Tracks: Feeds and Feeding
- 4-H 1508 Rabbit Tracks: Meat Quality and Carcass Evaluation
- 4-H 1509 Rabbit Tracks: Water
- 4-H 1510 Rabbit Tracks: Nutritional Value of Rabbit Meat
- 4-H 1511 Rabbit Tracks: Tanning Rabbit Skins

Whitenight, the club leaders, met with 23 club members. During the first meeting we learned each other's names; we learned the sound of the spring peeper and the western chorus frog. We also refreshed our memories of how a robin, blue jay and cardinal sound. The meeting ended with everyone enjoying Mr. Whitenight's homemade beef jerky, each student getting a club bandana and sharing what each had enjoyed most about the meeting.

On March 24th we met for the second time. By now we have enrolled 31 members and 28 of them were able to attend our second meeting. We hiked to Clinton River Park North along with Cole, our club dog. Once at the park the kids were made aware of the evidence of severe flooding that had taken place this past winter. We walked down to the bridge for a group photo then went down by the river to sit on some downed trees and enjoy the cheesy popcorn snack that Mr. Whitenight had brought for everyone. Some of the kids did a wonderful job picking up trash as we went around the park and putting into the trash containers. Next time they all say they will bring bags to help with the clean up efforts. These kids are great environment stewards already. While at the park we saw lots of robins, Canada geese, mallard ducks, tracks of deer and raccoons. Then we spent some time working with our compasses and learning how to walk in a straight line in any one given direction. We will spend more time with the compasses at our next meeting. We took a short hike around one of the loops. We saw a massive oak tree that has fallen and nearby about seven deer. The kids were excited to see that some of the trees along the loop have been marked with the proper names. This is a great way for kids and adults to begin learning the different species of trees.

It was just too soon and the clock had already moved to 6:30. Parents were arriving. We quickly asked each member to share what he or she enjoyed the most, collected compasses and said good-bye until the next meeting. It was so fun to hear the kids say, "I loved it all." Or, "I loved learning about nature and seeing animal tracks." The kids' excitement was very visible and audible. We thought it was amazing that we saw so much wildlife with the amount of noise we were making. But, maybe the animals there are used to such fun.

*Submitted by Theresa Whitenight, General Leader
Dresden Outdoor Adventure Challenge 4-H Club*

Upcoming Events

K-9 & Kompany Dog Fun Match

The 2009 K-9 & Kompany 4-H Club Dog Fun Match will be June 13, 2009 at Wolcott Mill Farm Learning Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray Township. Registration is from 9-9:45 a.m., Judging begins at 10 a.m. Entries postmarked by June 5th are \$5 for the first entry plus \$1 for each additional class with the same dog. Fun classes will be available for \$1 per class. For more information, contact Nancy Duemling (586-307-8801) or Susan Wilkinson (586-786-2177).

State 4-H Goat Show

The State 4-H Goat Show is Saturday, June 27, 2009. Classes will include Showmanship, Dairy Breeds, Angora, Pygmy, Boer, Market Wether, County Herd, Obstacle and Pack, and Driving. Exhibitors must be ages 9-19 as of January 1, 2009 to participate. Special cloverbud classes will be available for ages 5-8. The cost is \$6 per participant, \$4 per goat and \$8 per pen. For more information, contact Macomb County MSU Extension at 586-469-6431 or Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov.

State 4-H Trail Ride

Registration packets are now available for the State 4-H Trail Ride, to be held June 26-28, 2009 at Goose Creek Trail Camp near Grayling. Participants will enjoy bug races, arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, line dancing, camp fires, making new friends and catching up with old ones. Registration will be open through May 28 to the first 200 registrants. Go online to <http://www.msue.msu.edu/horsekids> or contact Tina Fleming at 586-469-6431 or flemin82@msu.edu for more information.

State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo

The State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo will be held at MSU on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Events will include quiz bowl, skillathon, rabbit showmanship, cavy showmanship, virtual breed ID, quiz contest, virtual cavy breed judging, and educational poster. There are Junior (9-13) and Senior (14-19) individual and team divisions. For this event, age is calculated as of January 1, 2009. The cost is \$5 per individual and \$3 per event. Registrations are due to the county MSU Extension Office by May 8, 2009. For more information, call 586-469-6431 or e-mail Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov.

New Volunteer Orientation

On May 11th there will be a new volunteer orientation for folks who are currently in the process of becoming screened volunteers for those who are interested. The orientation will be held at the MSUE 4-H office in the Training Room. Signs will be posted. The time is 6:15 - 9:15 p.m. If you or someone you know needs to attend the orientation, please pass this information along. If you have questions, call Tina at 586-469-6431.

4-H Learning Science Through the Arts Camp

Wonders of
Water: Get into Water
& Make a Splash!

July 12-15, 2009

4-H Learning Science through the Arts Camp is designed for youth aged 9 to 14 years old with volunteer teen counselors, aged 15 to 19 years old. The camp program blends nature study and outdoor recreation with visual and performing arts.

ART: A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words!

- Learn how to take great outdoor pictures using digital cameras.
- Learn from professional photographer, Charles St. Charles.
- Explore and take photos of the wetlands, waterfront, water bugs and learn how to use computer technology and your digital "pop out" photos to create an amazing digital watershed mosaic to share with our friends and family at the end of camp presentation.
- Enjoy a WOW presentation of wildlife photographs taken by Charles St. Charles.
- Sketch, paint and more paint! Learn the basics of watercolor painting with artist Nancy Kitchen & enter your creations in an end of camp Art Show.
- Experience the fable of the Rainstick with storyteller Bonnie Neuman and create your own rainstick to take home. Design a T-Shirt using the ancient art of fish printing.

SCIENCE: Water on the Go!

- Learn about water resources through Cranbrook Institute Science educators as they present three programs: How We Use Water, I Live In A Watershed, and Groundwater Pollution, for you to learn about water resources. We'll also perform water quality tests on Center Lake and dip for macroinvertebrates.
- Use computer technology to make a watershed mosaic of photographs. With the help of professional photographer Charles St. Charles.
- Design your own boat and then test it for speed and floatation with other campers on Center Lake.
- Build your own terrarium to take home!

For more information and the registration form, go online to <http://www.kettunencenter.org/sciartcamp.html> or call Kettunen Center at (231) 829-3421.

Notes from the 4-H Office

Need for Male Mentors

Right now there is a boy in Macomb county waiting for YOU to be his mentor! He needs someone like you to just hang out with him for an hour a week, just being his friend. The wonderful thing about mentoring is that you are already equipped to be a great mentor. Mentoring is about sharing your personal time. It is not about money, gifts or events. Mentoring is often as uncomplicated as engaging in what appears ordinary to most of us ... helping a child with homework, playing games, talking, listening, letting a child run errands with you. But to a child without a role model, these are extraordinary activities.

We do not want you to play the role of psychologist, case worker, or parent. We need you to be yourself for just one hour a week for one year. These are kids who need the peace of mind and security of knowing that you will be around for them. We will provide you with the support you need to succeed, including how to create clear guidelines. The moment you become a mentor to a child, your experience is a success. If you would like more information about being a Mentor, please call Rachel at 586-783-8163.

MSU EXTENSION PLANT EXCHANGE



June 6, 2009 9 a.m. - Noon

Always the "First Saturday in June from 9 to noon."

**VerKuilen Building, 21885 Dunham Rd., Clinton Twp.
Call 586-469-6440 for more information**

Host Families Needed

MSU Extension is in need of families to host Japanese guests this summer from July 24-August 22. You can find information about the exchange at the MSUE 4-H website, <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/interex.html>.

Host families must:

- Be willing to open your home and heart
- Have a child the same age and gender as the exchange student
- Agree to attend a host family orientation
- Be enthusiastic to learn about other cultures

There is no need to plan special activities or excursions. For more information, call Anne Crotser at 586-469-6431 or send e-mail to anne.crotser@macombcountymi.gov.

Macomb County 4-H Partners with JCPenney-Roseville

JCPenney provides generous support to afterschool programs nationwide. Last year, the JCPenney Afterschool Charity Round-ups raised 4.5 million to help enrich the lives of youth by providing necessary funds for after school activities. Customers make donations by rounding up their purchase to the nearest dollar. This opportunity to "Round Up" and give to Macomb County 4-H and afterschool programs will be offered at the Roseville JCPenney store on Gratiot throughout the year on the following dates:

April 10-19
August 5-16
October 16 - 25
December 4-13

So help spread the word to family and friends to spare their change when they shop at JCPenney-Roseville on Gratiot. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund will donate the difference to Macomb County 4-H Youth Programs to provide children in our community with access to life-enriching 4-H programs.

Macomb County 4-H Staff

Marilyn Rudzinski, County Extension Director	Roberta Busquaert, 4-H Secretary
Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Youth Agent	Jan Gwozdz, 4-H Mentor Coordinator
Tina Fleming, 4-H Youth Educator	Rachel Calcaterra, 4-H Youth Educator
Anne Crotser, 4-H Youth Educator	Bee Brown, 4-H Program Assistant
Karen Hakim, 4-H Program Assistant	Marcia Bloomfield, 4-H Mentor Prg. Secretary
Gina Riebel, 4-H Program Assistant	

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